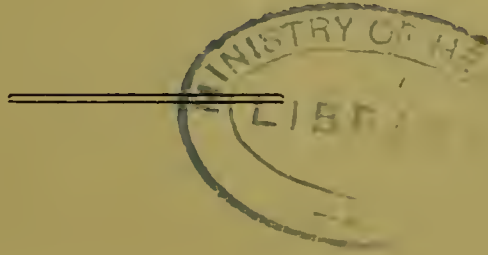


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**BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# REPORT

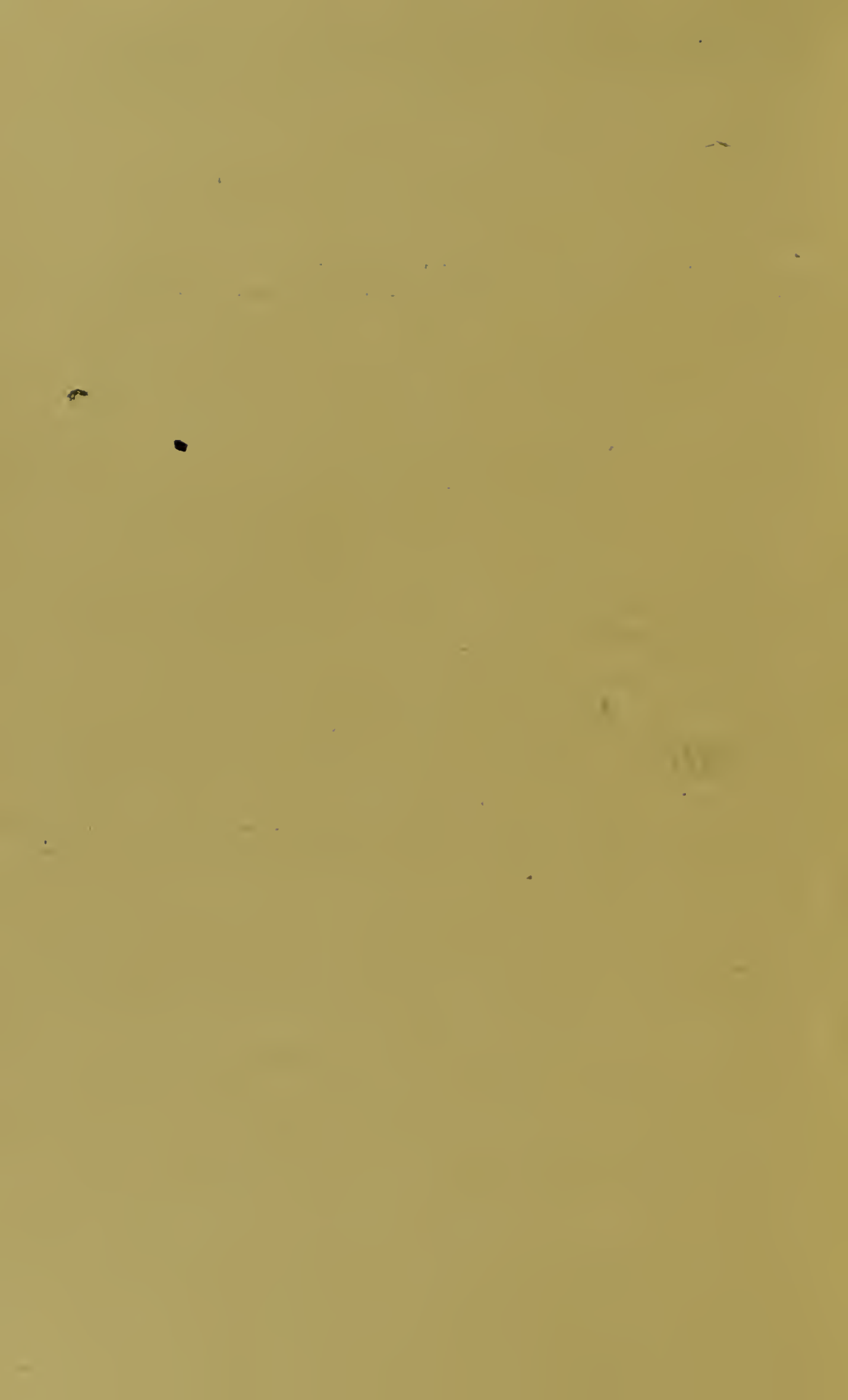
OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND THE

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**For the Year 1951.**



**BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND THE

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**For the Year 1951.**



# BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Annual Report of the Health Department

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

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Chairman of the Council	....	DR. CHARLES HICKS, J.P., C.C.
Vice-Chairman of the Council	....	E. GITTUS, Esq., C.C.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	....	W. E. HOBBS, Esq.

### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MRS. B. H. BATE.	E. GITTUS, Esq., C.C.
MRS. M. JOHNSON.	E. V. GODRICH, Esq., C.C.
MRS. G. H. WALKER.	DR. C. HICKS, J.P., C.C.
L. J. BOFFEY, Esq.	W. E. HOBBS, Esq.
E. G. CASH, Esq.	E. A. TURNER, Esq., J.P., C.C.
W. T. FOX, Esq.	

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	....	E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health		V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	....	P. P. CHAMINGS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Additional Sanitary Inspector	....	R. F. ROBINS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	....	K. J. SMITH.
Clerks	....	MISS J. E. BUTLER MISS P. V. PRIDAY (from 30/4/51).

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in Bromsgrove Rural District for the year 1951 and a report on the work carried out by your Health Department.

A country-wide Influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year was evident, to a slight extent, in the district, by an increase in the numbers of deaths from that disease. Deaths from Accidents (Road Traffic and others) were doubled and Suicides showed a very marked increase.

Notifications of Tuberculosis continued to swell the numbers on the Register. There were twice the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis as last year.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. I have mentioned in my report a serious Diphtheria outbreak which occurred in a neighbouring district, causing three deaths in *un-immunised children*. The immunisation state of the children in that district appeared to be higher than in your district.

It cannot be too strongly or too frequently stressed that immunisation of children against Diphtheria is a very necessary precaution. It was shown in the above outbreak that not only was primary immunisation in infancy needed to afford protection, but the further reinforcing injection at school entrance age was essential.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and consideration, and to Mr. Chamings and the departmental staff my thanks are due for their continued keen and enthusiastic work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 45,610.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population	Mid 1951 -- 27,880
	Mid 1950 -- 27,910
(Census, 1951--28,172)	Mid 1947 -- 25,230
	Mid 1937 -- 19,620
Number of inhabited houses--	End of 1951 -- 8,231
	End of 1950 -- 8,129
	End of 1947 -- 7,798
	End of 1937 -- 6,645
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1951 ....	£164,179.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate ....	£648.

*Estimated*

Population by Parishes.	1939	1951
Alvechurch ....	3236	4530
Belbroughton ....	2676	2590
Bentley Pauncefoot ....	344	340
Beoley ....	770	840
Clent ....	1943	1950
Cofton Hackett ....	3736	4440
Dodford-with-Grafton ....	513	520
Frankley ....	184	190
Hagley ....	2233	2630
Hunnington ....	543	510
Romsley ....	1070	990
Stoke Prior ....	2130	2270
Tutnall and Cobley ....	697	780
Wythall ....	4482	5300
<b>TOTALS</b> ....	<b>24,557</b>	<b>27,880</b>

### VITAL STATISTICS.

(1950 figures in brackets).

#### LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ....	207	174	381
Illegitimate ....	9	11	20
	<u>216 (210)</u>	<u>185 (207)</u>	<u>401 (417)</u>

**Birth Rate.** (Births per 1000 population) :—

1951	1950	1949	1937	1951—England & Wales.
14.4	14.9	15.3	14.1	15.5 (15.8)

**Illegitimacy Rate.** (Total live illegitimate births per 1000 total live births) : —

1951	1950	1949	1937
19.9	57.6	42.0	32.0.

The 1951 birth-rate of 14.4 per 1000 population showed a fall in the rate for the district below that of the previous year of 0.5—this rate was 1.1 per 1000 below the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.5.

The fall in the birth rate in the district below that of the previous year was equal to that for the whole country. The district rate for 1951 was 0.3 per 1000 over that of 1937.

The illegitimacy rate showed a slight decrease.

STILL BIRTHS.				M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	....	....		7	1	8 (6)
Illegitimate	....	....		—	—	— (1)
				—	—	—
				7	1	8 (7)

**Still-birth Rate.** (Still births per 1,000 total live and still births) :—

1951	1950	1949	1937
19.5	16.5	25.0	38.1

Rate of Still-births per 1,000 Total population :—

1951	1950	1949	1937	1951—England & Wales.
0.28	0.25	0.39	0.56	0.36 (0.37)

The Still-birth rate showed a slight rise over the previous year, but this was still well below the rate for 1949. The rate of still-births per 1000 total population showed a small rise, but was still well below that for the whole country.

DEATHS.	M.	F.	Total.
	158	147	305
	(125)	(152)	(277)

**Death Rate.** (Deaths per 1,000 population) :—

1951	1950	1949	1937	1951—England & Wales.
10.9	9.9	10.0	11.1	12.5 (11.7).

There was, approximately, a 10 % increase in the number of deaths over the previous year.

**Major Causes of Deaths** (by percentages) :—

	1950	1949	
1. Diseases of Circulatory System.	37.4 %	51.3 %	46.6 % of all deaths.
2. Malignant Diseases (all forms)	17.4 %	15.5 %	18.9 % of all deaths.
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	8.2 %	6.1 %	10.3 % of all deaths.
4. Accidents (Road traffic and others)	5.2 %	2.9 %	3.6 % of all deaths.
5. Influenza	4.6 %	0.4 %	2.5 % of all deaths.
6. Tuberculosis (all forms)	3.3 %	2.2 %	1.1 % of all deaths.
7. Suicides	2.3 %	0.4 %	1.8 % of all deaths.



There was a considerable fall in the number of deaths registered as due to diseases of the Circulatory System. In the majority of the other causes of death there was an increase. There was a marked increase in the number of deaths from Malignant Diseases, but this did not reach the 1949 figure.

The overall increase in the number of deaths can be assigned in major part to Influenza 14 (1), Road Traffic Accidents and others 16 (8), and Suicides 7 (1).

MATERNAL DEATHS.

There were no maternal deaths.

**Maternal Mortality.** (Maternal Deaths per 1,000 total live and still-births) :—

1951	1950	1949	1937	1951—England & Wales.
Nil.	2.39	Nil.	Nil.	0.79 (0.86)

INFANT AND NEONATAL DEATHS.

Infant deaths (under 1 year of age).

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ....	5	4	9 (6)
Illegitimate ....	0	2	2 (3)
	—	—	—
	5	6	11 (9)

Neonatal deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ....	2	1	3 (5)
Illegitimate ....	0	2	2 (3)
	—	—	—
	2	3	5 (8)

Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates :—

	1951	1950	1949	1937	1951
Deaths of Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	23.6	15.3	26.8	29.7	England and Wales. —
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	100.0	125.0	Nil.	111.0	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 total live births.	12.4	19.2	—	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 total live births.	27.4	21.6	25.6	32.4	29.6

**Causes of Infant Deaths :—**

Asphyxia	....	....	....	2
Congenital Abnormality	....	....	....	2 (1 Neonatal)
Prematurity	....	....	....	2 (1 Neonatal)
Gastro-enteritis	....	....	....	2 (1 Neonatal)
Birth Trauma	....	....	....	1 (Neonatal)
Kernicterus	....	....	....	1 (Neonatal)
Serum Hepatitis	....	....	....	1

There was an increase in the number of infant deaths to 11 (9). Neonatal deaths decreased to 5 (8). The death rate for all infants, 27.4, was slightly below that for England and Wales of 29.6.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT  
1951.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.	TOTAL.	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	4	4	8	.28
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	2	2	.07
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1	2	.07
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	6	5	11	.39
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bron- chus ...	6	2	8	.28
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	8	8	.28
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	2	2	.07
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	17	24	.86
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	1	1	2	.07
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	19	33	1.18
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	28	7	35	1.25
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	4	8	.28
20. Other heart disease ...	13	19	32	1.14
21. Other circulatory disease ...	3	3	6	.21
22. Influenza ...	4	10	14	.50
23. Pneumonia ...	5	2	7	.25
24. Bronchitis ...	8	6	14	.50
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1	3	.10
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	—	5	.18
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	2	5	.18
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	1	3	.10
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	5	—	5	.18
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ...	1	1	2	.07
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	22	21	43	1.5
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	6	3	9	.32
34. All other accidents ...	2	5	7	.25
35. Suicide ...	6	1	7	.25
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>10.9</b>

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Very extensive preventative and treatment services were provided throughout the district. The services directed towards the promotion of better personal health and the prevention of disease were provided in the main by the County Council and the Public Health Laboratory Service: the services directed towards the diagnosis and treatment of disease were provided by the general practitioner service and the Regional Hospital Board.

#### (a) Child Welfare Clinics.

The following Child Welfare Clinics, provided by the County Council, were held in the district.

Alveehurch	1st and 3rd Wednesday in month.
Beoley	3rd Wednesday in month.
Belbroughton	1st and 3rd Monday in month.
Clent	2nd and 4th Monday in month.
Cotton Hackett	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month.
Finstall	1st and 3rd Thursday in month.
Hagley	2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.
Wythall	2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.
West Heath	Every Friday.

The enthusiastic aid to the medical and nursing staffs at these clinics given by the voluntary helpers was much appreciated.

#### (b) Health Visiting.

The County Council provided a service of health visitors throughout the district.

These were as follows:—

Mrs. Jones, Cliffords Cottage, Beoley.	Alveehurch, Cotton Hackett, Wythall.
--	--

Mrs. Bullock, 2 Church Avenue, Clent.	Belbroughton, Clent.
---	-------------------------

Miss Partridge, Mount Hill Cottages, Hanbury.	Bentley.
---	----------

Miss Sheppard, 100 Heathfield Road, Redditch.	Beoley, Tardebigge.
---	------------------------

Mrs. Bryan, 25 Windsor Street, Bromsgrove.	Dodford, Fairfield, Tutnall & Copley.
--	---

Miss A. Lawson,  
8 Chesterwood Road,  
King's Heath,  
Birmingham 14.

West Heath,  
Frankley,  
Wildmoor.

Mrs. Porter,  
26 Hill Street,  
Stourbridge.

Hagley.

Miss M. Elliott,  
40 New Road,  
Stourbridge.

Stoke Prior,  
Timberhonger.

Miss Abbott,  
40 New Road,  
Stourbridge.

Hunnington,  
Romsley.

These nurses visit the mother, in the home, to advise on the care of her baby and young children, and to give advice on any health matters which may affect the family. They are especially interested in the promotion and maintenance of breast feeding and in encouraging regular attendance at the Welfare Clinics. They are also in attendance at Welfare Clinics, and in many cases act as school nurses. They are always available to help and advise mothers experiencing difficulties in bringing up their children.

### **(c) The Midwifery Services and Home Nursing.**

Three agencies provided the midwifery services throughout the district. 1. The family doctor—ante and post natal care and attendance at home confinements. 2. The County Council (a) The provision of ante-natal clinics, (b) the provision of district nurse-midwives to act as midwives or to assist the family doctor as maternity nurses in home confinements. 3. The Regional Hospital Board—the provision of hospital beds for treatment and hospital confinement where required.

There was a shortage of maternity beds available to the district. The County Medical Officer, acting as agent for the Regional Hospital Board, allocated the existing beds according to the urgency and unsuitability for home confinement of each individual case.

The opening of a maternity unit at All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, replaced Rigby Hall Maternity Home, which was closed. Unfortunately, due to lack of staff, it was not possible to extend this new unit to its full capacity. When this is done it will go a long way to overcoming the shortage of maternity beds which still exists.

The district nurses also attend general medical and surgical cases in the home.



**(d) School Health Services.**

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service throughout the district. Regular Medical Inspections of school children were carried out and special clinics, e.g. Minor ailment, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, dental, child guidance, etc., were available for the reference of children where more detailed investigation or treatment was required. An Open-air School was available at Malvern to which children who were thought to be likely to benefit from a change of air and environment could be sent.

**(e) Laboratory Facilities.**

The County Council provided a laboratory for the chemical and bacteriological analysis of water, milk, etc.

The Public Health Laboratory Service provided, at the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, facilities for the bacteriological examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and prevention of spread of infectious disease.

**(f) Hospital Services.**

Hospitals, under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of Redditch Maternity Hospital, which served this District, were :—

Infectious Disease.	Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen. Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham.
Tuberculosis.	Knightwick Sanatorium. Hayley Green Sanatorium, Halesowen.
Maternity.	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove. Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge. Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Redditch Maternity Hospital. The Birmingham Maternity Hospital. Birmingham.
Children's Disease.	Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
Venereal Disease.	General Hospital, Birmingham. Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
Mental Illness.	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Broms- grove. Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern.
Chest Surgery.	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove.
General.	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove. Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital. Smallwood Hospital, Redditch. The General Hospitals, Birmingham.
Aged Chronic Sick.	All Saints Hospital, Bromsgrove.

**(g) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination Service.**

This was provided by the County Council. Locally it was administered jointly with that of the Bromsgrove Urban District by the Bromsgrove Urban District Health Department.

Figures of immunisation and vaccinations carried out are found under Section (F).

**(h) Ambulance Service.**

This was provided by the County Council and the Rural District was serviced from surrounding centres.

**(i) Health Education.**

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education, and leaflets and posters were obtained from them and were used for display and distribution throughout the whole of the District, in connection with the prevention of the major infectious diseases.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector, in his report, gives details of the Sanitary Inspections carried out during the year.

#### 2. Water Supply.

Over four-fifths of the houses in the District were supplied with main piped water supplies which were satisfactory in quality and quantity. There were still, however, many dwellings and farm premises with only well water supplies. These latter supplies were, to a large extent, unsatisfactory.

Routine sampling of well water supplies for bacteriological and chemical analysis was continued during the year.

Sampling at source of main supplies was done by the water undertakings, but consumer samples were taken from time to time in the District. Specimens of the results of this sampling are given on page 15.

During the year under review the following extensions of mains were effected :

- (a) By the Rural District Council :—570 yards, and
- (b) under Guarantee Agreements with the following public water undertakings :

The City of Birmingham Water Department 719 yards

East Worcestershire Waterworks Company 2145 yards.

The various water supply extension schemes, which had been approved in principle and which are to be carried out by the East Wores. Waterworks Co., were not commenced, owing to the ban on starting dates imposed by the Government. After the expiry of the specified period the Company will be taking up the matter with the Government Priority Organisation.

The South Staffs. Waterworks Co. required certain information with regard to the proposed extension at Rumbow as part of the extension is outside their statutory area of supply. This information has been supplied.

The schemes which have been approved in principle by the Ministry are as follows :—

<i>Location.</i>	<i>Parish.</i>
Wildmoor.	Belbroughton.
Dodford Village.	Dodford-with-Grafton.
Woodgate, Harbours Hill and Sharpway Gate.	Stoke Prior.
Beoley (outside village area).	Beoley.
Madeley Heath.	Belbroughton.
Walton Pool.	Clent.
Upper Bentley.	Bentley Panncefoot.
Snuff Hill and Croppings Green.	Belbroughton.
Rumbow.	Clent.



WATER UNDERTAKINGS.	ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIED TO THE				
	EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATERWORKS CO. Sampled in Alvechurch.	CITY OF BIRMINGHAM WATER DEPARTMENT Sampled in Colton Hackett.	STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT WATER BOARD. Sampled in Belbroughton.	SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS CO. Sampled in Madeley.	BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL. Sampled in Beoley.
Physical Characters	Clear	Slightly Opalescent	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None	None	None	None
Deposit.	None	Very slight white	None	Very slight white	None
pH.	6.9	6.8	8.3	6.9	7.8
Chemical Examination. *Solids in Suspension. (Dried at 100 °C).	None	Slight	None	Slight trace	Nil
*Solids in Solution (Dried at 180 °C).	20	4	61	5	50
*Solids in Solution after Ignition.	18	3	49	4	36
*Chlorides Calculated as Common Salt.	3.3	1.1	11	1.9	3.3
*Hardness Permanent.	5	1	19	Nil	7
*Hardness Temporary	8	1	21	1	36
*Hardness Total.	13	2	40	1	43
*Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0026
*Albuminoid Ammonia.	0.0002	0.0056	0.0008	0.0038	0.0022
*Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates).	0.67	0.02	1.6	Nil	0.16
*Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
*Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27 °C	Nil	0.15	0.013	0.11	Nil
*Toxic Metals.	None detected	None detected	None detected	None detected	None detected
Bacteriological Examination. Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 °C, per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli : (a) faecal coli, per cent	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) non-faecal coli, per cent	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
*Expressed in parts per 100,000					

The Supply of Water in the parishes is as follows :—

PARISH.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.				From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, Etc.	
	Direct to Houses.		By means of Standpipe.		No. of dwelling-houses.	Population.
	No. of dwelling-houses.	Population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	Population.		
Alvechurch ... ..	1225	4287	—	—	124	434
Belbroughton ... ..	580	2030	—	—	193	675
Bentley Pauncefoot ... ..	35	122	—	—	67	234
Beoley ... ..	43	150	8	28	201	703
Clent ... ..	525	1836	—	—	58	203
Cofton Hackett ... ..	1287	4504	—	—	6	21
Dodford-with-Grafton ... ..	4	25	—	—	155	529
Frankley ... ..	30	105	—	—	27	94
Hagley ... ..	741	2593	—	—	13	45
Humington ... ..	144	503	—	—	6	21
Romsley ... ..	241	843	—	—	53	186
Stoke Prior ... ..	548	1918	—	—	131	458
Tutnall and Cobley ... ..	140	482	—	—	86	301
Wythall ... ..	1490	5215	—	—	70	245
TOTALS	7033	24613	8	28	1190	4149

### 3. Drainage and Sewerage.

The following are the Sewage Disposal Works situated in the district :—

Alvechurch	-	Lye Bridge.	
Clent	-	Hossill Lane	} with land irrigation.
		Horse Pasture	
Cotton Hackett	-	Kingswood Road—Pumping Station to Birmingham. Cotton Road.	
Hagley	-	Sweetpool Lane.	
Hunnington	-	Illey Lane.	
Stoke Prior	-	Stoke Works.	
		Fininstall—Pumping Station to Broms- grove U.D.C.	
Wythall	-	Houndsfield Lane.	

*Clent—Hossill Lane.*

Work was commenced early in the year on the new sewage disposal works, which had already been approved, to replace the inadequate disposal arrangements. The work had not been completed by the end of the year.

*Belbroughton Village Scheme.*

Work on the large scheme for the construction of disposal works and sewers was commenced and was still in progress at the end of the year.

*Hagley—Sweetpool Lane.*

These works are overloaded and the alternative schemes put forward to deal with the problem were still under consideration.

*Wythall—Inkford area.*

Consideration was given to sewerage this area and a scheme was submitted to the Council. It was found necessary for this to be varied, and the matter was still under consideration at the end of the year.

*Alvechurch—Hopwood area.*

Proposals for a scheme for sewerage this area, together with methods of disposal, were considered, and a scheme was accepted by the Council for preparation for submission for formal approval by the Ministry.

For the unsewered areas the Council provided a cesspool emptying service, giving, where necessary, a quarterly emptying free of charge. This was administered by the Surveyor's Department, who control the three cesspool vehicles used for this purpose.

### 4. Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal was carried out throughout the district under the direction of the Surveyor's Department.

A collection was carried out, so far as practicable, once a fortnight, and disposed by tipping at the following five sites :—Alvechurch, Belbroughton, Romsley, Stoke Prior, and Wythall.

Six refuse vehicles were in use during the year.

## **5. Tents, Vans and Sheds.**

Caravans continued to present a serious problem in control and siting.

I would press, again, for more guidance at a national level to enable councils, urban and rural, to overcome difficulties in the present legislation, mainly in relation to co-ordination of control under the Public Health and the Town and Country Planning Acts.

It must be faced that caravans will remain an unwelcomed solution of individual housing problems for some years to come.

The Council has become alive to this need, and a survey of the district was carried out during the year in an attempt to find suitable sites for controlled aggregates of these dwellings.

## **SECTION D.**

### **HOUSING.**

The housing situation in the district remains much the same as indicated in the last few years' reports. Better progress was made in the building of Council houses—99 were let for the first time in 1951 (35). However, the housing position still remains a major problem, and my remarks of last year still hold good.

The clearing of hutments on the Squatters' Camp at Frankley continued throughout the year. At the time of writing, there are only 4 families accommodated on this site.

## **SECTION E.**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

Routine inspections of food premises were continued during the year, and every effort was made to ensure the clean and safe handling of food-stuffs. Further reference to the subject is made in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 were in operation in the district.

I would again emphasise that hygienic premises alone will not provide safe food if the individual food handlers are not well versed in the necessity for absolute cleanliness and the dangers of bacterial contamination.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Nine cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

One family of five were affected, but as notification was not received until six days after the onset of the first case, the source was not discovered. Four other individual cases were also notified, but in no case was the source discovered.

One of the three cases of paratyphoid fever was proved to be food-borne in origin, and connected with a large outbreak of this disease which occurred in the Northfield area of Birmingham, and was traced to cream buns. The source of the other two cases was not determined.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### Notifiable Disease 1951.

DISEASE.	Corrected Notifications.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ....	—	—	—
Diphtheria ....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ....	20	3	—
Measles ....	239	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	91	—	—
Typhoid Fever ....	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ....	3	3	—
Dysentery ....	6	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	1	—
Polio-Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ....	21	—	7
Erysipelas ....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neona- torum ....	—	—	—
Malaria ....	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ....	9	1	—
TOTAL ....	393	9	7

#### Acute Poliomyelitis.

Three cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified during the year. One case was in an airman stationed at the R.A.F. Station at Wythall. This case terminated fatally—no source of infection was traced. The other two cases were of a very mild non-paralytic nature with complete recovery.

#### Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who completed a course of immunisation during 1951 was as follows:—

##### Primary Immunisation—

Under 5 years old	....	....	325 (258)
5—14 years	....	....	31 ( 20)

		356 (278)
Reinforcing (Booster) injections		391 (268)



The “ immunisation ” state of children in the Rural District on the 31st December, 1951, was as follows :—

Age	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—9	10—15	Total
Number Immunised	27	203	281	353	298	1969	1341	4472
Related No. of Children (Approx.)	2370					4350		6720
% Immunised	49.8 %					76.1 %		66.5 %

The comparable percentage figures on 31st December, 1950, were :—

% Immunised	44.2 %	69.4 %	60.4 %
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There was an increase in the number of primary immunisations after the previous year's decline, but they did not quite reach the 1949 figure.

There was a marked increase in the number of reinforcing injections given to almost 100 more than in 1949.

However, a serious outbreak of diphtheria in a neighbouring authority during the year, which *caused 3 deaths in unimmunised children* gave grim emphasis to my last year's warning against complacency in the matter of immunisation.

The outbreak in the adjoining district showed that primary immunisation *alone* was not sufficient to prevent serious illness from diphtheria occurring in school children, but *was* sufficient to prevent death and *did* modify the illness to a great extent. However, only *one* child (out of 25 affected) who developed the disease had had a “ reinforcing ” or “ Booster ” injection and she had a very mild attack, recovering completely.

It is not only important to have children immunised against diphtheria, IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROTECTION by “ REINFORCING ” OR “ BOOSTER ” INJECTIONS at the prescribed intervals in addition to the primary inoculations.

#### Scarlet Fever.

There was a reduction in the number of cases notified.

#### Measles.

This disease showed its biennial increase in incidence, there being 239 cases (143).

#### Whooping Cough.

There was a slight increase in the number of notifications.

**Smallpox.**

No cases of smallpox were reported.

There was a slight increase in the number of babies vaccinated.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Revaccinated) during 1951.

Age at 31st Dec., 1951 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2-4 1947-1949	5-14 1937-1946	15 & over before 1936	Total
Number Vaccinated	208	10	15	7	10	250
Number Revaccinated	2	.	3	13	46	64

**Tuberculosis.**

Tuberculosis continued to be notified to the District Council and a Register kept.

Twenty-one cases of Pulmonary and 5 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were added to the Register during the year, bringing the total to 173 (141).

The overall figure of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis for England and Wales showed a considerable fall—2,000 less than the previous year. However, these deaths were still at the rate of 230 *deaths per week*.

There is no room for complacency while there is still an increase in the number of new cases being notified.

**Tuberculosis—Incidence and Mortality during 1951.**

Age.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
10—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
35—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
45—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	8	1	4	2	4	—	1

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at December, 1951,  
was as follows :—

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Pulmonary	69	59	128
Non-pulmonary	22	23	45
Total	91	82	173



# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Annual Report for 1951 I am pleased to state that, in the many duties which came within the purview of the Department, progress has been made in securing improvements in the District as a whole. Whilst the more serious cases of overcrowding and of people living under insanitary conditions have been dealt with by reason of houses which have been erected under the Council's Housing Schemes, the presence of substandard dwellings, chiefly in the form of the temporary huts at Crabmill Lane, Wythall, and Groveley Place, Cofton Hackett, presents a challenge to those whose duty it is to rehouse these unfortunate people, and it is to be hoped that every endeavour will be made to eliminate these hutments as soon as possible.

Also, attention is drawn to the urgent need of revising the Rent Restrictions Acts, in order that owners of cottages can be encouraged to carry out the maintenance of and improvements to their property. The cost of carrying out necessary repairs has risen three to four fold since 1938, and still nothing has been done by Parliament to assist in meeting these high costs.

Considerable time has been devoted to the Caravan problem, and one is constantly reminded that this form of accommodation, although lacking in amenities, is to be preferred to rooms. Our presence so near to the large centres of population is the chief reason for this problem.

Attention has also been given to the multifarious duties relating to Food, Milk, Ice Cream, Water Supply, Drainage, Rodent Control, etc.

The helpful co-operation of the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. W. E. Hobbs ; The Clerk of the Council, Mr. Walter E. Dudley ; the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. E. T. Shennan ; and other officers of the Council, including my own Staff, is gratefully acknowledged.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

## COMPLAINTS.

A total of 191 complaints were received during the year 1951, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year :—

Houses inspected	503
No. of inspections and re-inspections of houses	948
Inspections under Housing Regulations	—
Visits re Complaints and Nuisances	319
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	87
Knacker's Yard	15
Slaughter of Pigs on Private Premises	30
Milk and Dairies	43
Piggeries	70
Bakehouses	10
Schools	11
Factories and Workshops	35
Outworkers' Premises	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	3109
Water Supply	323
Works in Progress	414
Drainage	498
Shops, etc. (re unfit food)	25
Visits to Shops and Food Premises	267
Rodent Control	111
Outside Interviews	601
Building Licenees	94
Verminous Premises	9
Smoke Abatement	36
Miscellaneous	401
Total No. of informal Notices served during the year	234

## HOUSING.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
	(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	503
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ....	506
	(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	—
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ....	—
	(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	—
	(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	132
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ....	85
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ....	—
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners ....	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ....	—
	(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ....	106
	Formal ....	5
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners ....	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ....	—

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... —
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... —

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... —
- (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... —

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—

It is not possible to supply accurate figures for overcrowding in the district.

### General.

No demolition order was made during the year.

It was found necessary to issue five statutory notices under the Public Health Act for the repair of houses, but in most cases an informal letter, followed where necessary by the threat of formal action, was successful in securing that the repairs were carried out.

Inspections of premises in connection with applications for building licences, for repair work only, enabled supervision of this work to be carried out.

No applications were received for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and one application which was submitted to the Ministry in 1950 was still under consideration by them at the end of the year.

A number of cottages sold with vacant possession have been reconditioned and brought up to a good standard, but the cost of this type of work would not be reasonable in cottages let at a low rental.

The shortage of houses remained the worst problem to be dealt with in housing, for although there are undoubtedly sub-standard houses in the District it can still be asserted that be it ever so humble there is still no place like a house of one's own.

### TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to the inspection and control of caravans, etc., 3109 visits being made in the course of the year.

Seven site licences and 130 individual licences were in force during the year. Nearly 600 of these structures were stationed



throughout the District, 385 being in permanent occupation. Generally, all the sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition from a public health aspect.

The caravans were mainly used by persons unable to find housing accommodation, and the position was most acute in those parts of the District bordering the larger Urban areas, where most of the caravanners work and from whence they originate.

As long as the shortage of houses remains, the caravan problem will remain; and indeed it seems likely to increase until stricter control can be imposed than under existing legislation.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **(a) Milk.**

Routine visits to dairies were carried out. The inspections of cow sheds and the supervision of milk production continued to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

The following licences (including supplementary licences) were issued during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk:—

Dealers Bottling	1	Distributors	14
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Pasteurised Milk:—

Distributors	24
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Sterilised Milk:—

Distributors	24
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### **(b) Meat and Other Foods.**

There is no Centralized Slaughterhouse in the District.

Inspection of meat was confined to cottagers' pigs, a number of which were examined. Routine inspection was carried out of food premises, and premises of all new applicants for catering licences, etc., were visited and approved prior to the issue of the licences by the Food Office.

A total of 150lbs. of foodstuffs of varying kinds was condemned as unfit for human consumption, and surrendered, during the year.

### **(c) Ice Cream.**

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the manufacture of Ice Cream was six and for retail sale only 84.

One hundred and six samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination.

The results of the samples were as follows:—

Provisional Grade	1	96	Satisfactory.
	2	6	
	3	4	Unsatisfactory.
	4	—	

## **HOUSE DRAINAGE.**

New drainage to existing houses was provided in 45 cases, 19 being to the sewer, and at 26 properties cesspools were provided. At a further 18 premises the drains were repaired.

Work on the reconstruction of the sewage works at Clent commenced during the year, but was not completed.

The scheme for the provision of sewers and sewage works for the village of Belbroughton was also commenced, and was still in progress at the end of the year.

The need for sewer extension for the Inkford area of Wythall and a scheme for Hopwood, Alvechurch Parish, were considered by the Council, and schemes for submission to the Ministry for approval were in course of preparation.

The need for a scheme for Fairfield, Belbroughton Parish, was again apparent.

## **SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.**

Eight renewals of licences were issued under the above Act during the year.

## **WATER SUPPLIES.**

Six samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological and five for chemical examination, and all were satisfactory.

Forty-eight samples of water from private wells were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination, and twenty-one for bacteriological examination only. Of these, fifty-four were bacteriologically unsatisfactory and thirty-three chemically unsatisfactory; fifteen were chemically satisfactory and fifteen bacteriologically satisfactory.

Of the samples of spring water examined five were chemically and bacteriologically satisfactory and two unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

Thirty-two existing premises were connected to the water mains in the course of 1951.

A total of 3,434 yards of new main was laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year.

Once again I would urge the necessity of providing piped water supplies in connection with the several priority schemes which have been approved by the Council.

## **DISINFESTATION.**

Four premises found to be infested with fleas were disinfested.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary.

### RODENT CONTROL.

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of 188 infestations of private houses, and 52 at business premises, were successfully treated.

During the year the Council continued to provide a free service for the destruction of rats, at private dwellings, but in the case of business premises a charge was made as previously.

The free service has resulted in closer co-operation between the public and Department and, in this way, what might have become major infestations have been eliminated by prompt action.

Test baiting of the sewers was carried out, and no infestation was discovered.

Periodic inspections and treatments of the refuse tips and sewage works were carried out throughout the year by the Rodent Operative.

It can be confidently stated that, as the result of the work that has been carried out both on Council Undertakings and at private and business premises, no serious cases of infestation were known to exist at the end of 1951.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

In two cases during the course of the year it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial, under the provisions of the above Act, of persons dying within the District.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Numerous visits were made following complaints concerning one Factory within the District, but it was not considered that there was sufficient nuisance to justify taking formal action.

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	72	28	1	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	—	—	—
TOTAL	87	35	1	—

# CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS.  (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)
	Referred :				
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector. (5)	By H.M. Inspector. (6)	
Want of Cleanliness(S.1)	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	1	—









